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## JOHNSON BACKED ON MISSILE PACT

Senators Favor Move to Get  
Soviet Accord on Defense

By JOHN W. FINNEY

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 —

Members of the Senate Disarmament Subcommittee generally endorsed today President Johnson's move to seek an agreement with the Soviet Union to halt deployment of ballistic missile defense systems.

If there was any reservation among Democratic and Republican members of the subcommittee about the President's proposal, it was that the Administration was not showing sufficient urgency and was still vague about the nature of the agreement it was seeking with the Soviet Union.

But a poll of the seven subcommittee members showed that all would support Administration action to defer deployment of an American anti-missile system in return for a Soviet commitment to halt deploying its system.

On the basis of the opinions of the subcommittee members, who represent a political cross section on Capitol Hill, it appears that the Administration may have been overestimating the pressures in Congress to start deploying a missile defense system in the United States.

### Had Expected Pressure

As a result of recent evidence that the Soviet Union had begun deploying such a system, the administration had expected an intensive Congressional campaign this year to begin production and deployment of the Nike X defense system. So far, this system has been kept in the research and development stage by the Defense Department.

It was partly to meet this expected pressure that President Johnson, in his State of the Union Message last week, announced that the Administration was deferring a decision on deployment of the Nike X system while it sought an agreement with the Soviet Union for a mutual moratorium on deployment of the systems.

In an appeal directed equally at the Soviet Union and Congress, the President suggested that the two countries had a duty to "not impose on our peoples, and on all mankind, an additional waste of resources with no gain in security."

Through a Presidential message carried to Moscow by the American Ambassador, Llewellyn E. Thompson, the United States is sounding out the Soviet leadership on its reaction to the Johnson move. Until the likely Soviet reaction is indicated, the Administration is being vague about the specific proposal it plans.

At least on the Senate side, it appears that the Administration will encounter a favorable reaction in Congress when it seeks, as the President promised in his speech, Congressional advice about "the possibilities of international agreements affecting this problem."

The Disarmament Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee may take

the initiative in giving the advice because it plans a hearing on a missile defense agreement, perhaps in conjunction with the Subcommittee on International Agreements of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee. Senator Albert Gore, Democrat of Tennessee, is chairman of both subcommittees.

Senator Gore said he believed the two nations had "a mutuality of interest" in avoiding the "inordinate expenses and waste of talents" that would result from a speeded-up arms race.

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when Senator Gore